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cc: 21 HRAS-

DPS

for  
P. Law

L Press Guidance  
June 14, 1994

RELEASED IN FULL

RWANDA: GENOCIDE

Q. Yesterday you said that you have every reason to believe that acts of genocide are occurring in Rwanda? Which acts constitute genocide?

A. -- WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC INCIDENTS AT THIS TIME. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF INTER-ETHNIC KILLING AND VIOLENCE IN RWANDA. THE CIRCUMSTANCES STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT MANY OF THESE ACTS WERE PERPETRATED WITH THE INTENT TO WIPE OUT AN ETHNIC GROUP IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND ARE THEREFORE ACTS OF GENOCIDE. THIS IS THE REASON THAT WE HAVE STATED THAT WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ACTS OF GENOCIDE HAVE OCCURRED IN RWANDA.

-- THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR APPOINTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE VIOLENCE IN RWANDA.

(Background for briefer: We should avoid the implication that the USG will assign the genocide label to specific incidents upon the report of the Special Rapporteur. We could only make that decision after seeing the report. It would also be premature to suggest that the USG would support an international tribunal for Rwanda. That issue is currently under review within the Administration).

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